

POLICY OF  STATE OF DELAWARE  DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	POLICY NUMBER  A-03	PAGE NUMBER  1 OF 1
	RELATED NCCHC/ACA STANDARDS: P-A-03/4-4381 (ESSENTIAL)	
CHAPTER: 11 HEALTH SERVICES	SUBJECT: MEDICAL AUTONOMY	
APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER:		
EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-19-07		

**PURPOSE:**

Clinical decisions are the sole responsibility of responsible qualified health care professionals.

**POLICY:**

1. The site Physician in consultation with the statewide Medical Director, designated by medical vendor, has final responsibility for making or approving all medical decisions made by supervised licensed provider staff regarding the care provided to inmates of an institution. The site Physician and all other providers are licensed and in good standing with appropriate state licensing authority. Clinical decisions are made by state health care professionals, under the supervision of the site Physician.
2. Decisions on the type of treatment and need for transfer to outside resources will be the responsibility of the site Medical Director. The site Medical Director will work in conjunction with the Institutional Authority in cases where security and control of the inmate are issues.
3. Decisions on the type of mental health treatment and need for transfer to outside resources will be the responsibility of the mental health authority in consultation with the site Medical Director and health authority as indicated.
4. Health Services Staff will adhere to institutional security regulations.
5. The Institutional Authority will provide administrative support to ensure health services are available for inmates.
6. Problems related to medical autonomy are reviewed with the institution and tracked through QI process.

References:

National Commission on Correctional Health Care: Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2003, P-A-03

American Correctional Association: Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 4th Ed. 2003. 4-4381